

Message Text

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12

ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-09 VO-03 SCA-01 L-02 CPR-01

OC-05 CCO-00 PER-01 OPR-01 A-01 /038 W

----- 124847

R 210830Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8154

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI VISA REGULATIONS

REF: JIDDA 0855

1. THE SAUDI EMBASSY HAS NOW DONE AN ABOUT-FACE ON ITS RECENT CHANGE IN VISA REGULATIONS. THROUGHOUT A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WHICH WE HAD WITH THE SAUDI CONSUL HE STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED THAT THEIR PROCEDURES HAD NEVER CHANGED AND THAT DIFFICULTIES WE EXPERIENCED WERE IN SOME WAY A RESULT OF A MISUNDERSTANDING ON OUR PART. RATHER THAN FLOG A DEAD HORSE WE FINALLY EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT CHANGE HAD NOT OCCURRED AND THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO PROMPT ACTION ON FUTURE CASES.

2. NOT 24 HOURS LATER AN APPLICATION WE HAD SENT WAS RETURNED WITH THE COMMENT THAT NO VISA COULD BE ISSUED WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM THE SAUDI MFA. A CALL TO THE SAUDI EMBASSY REVEALED THAT THE ASSURANCES WE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE CONSUL HAD NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO HIS VISA CLERK. WE RE-SUBMITTED THE APPLICATION AND ARE AWAITING ISSUANCE OF THE VISA.

3. WE ATTRIBUTE THIS AND PREVIOUS HARASSMENTS TO THE SAUDI
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EMBASSY'S PRIVATE VENDETTA AGAINST WHAT IT CONSIDERS

RESTRICTIVE POLICIES VIS A VIS SAUDI VISA APPLICANTS.
THE LATEST INCIDENT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO OUR REQUESTING
AN I-20 FORM FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S SON. THE LATTER HAD
ENTERED THE U.S. WITH AN A-2 VISA AND HAD BEEN STUDYING
THERE FOR THE PAST YEAR. THE VISA HAD EXPIRED AND HE
REQUESTED ANOTHER A-2. THE SAUDI CONSUL CLAIMED THAT
ALL SAUDI STUDENTS RECEIVED A-2 FROM THE EMBASSY IN
JIDDA AND AN I-20 WAS UNNECESSARY.
IN ANY EVENT AS FAR AS SAUDI VISAS ARE CONCERNED WE
APPEAR TO HAVE RETURNED TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE FOR THE
TIME BEING.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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